

April 26, 2008

Federal Communications Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

Recently, my husband and I have learned of proposed rule changes that the FCC is considering – changes that could possibly have a negative effect for Christian and other similar-type radio stations.

Over the past eight years, we have both enjoyed listening to various Christian radio stations. Most often we listen to K LOVE radio station because through financial support of listeners (including ourselves), this station often has a signal most places that we have lived and traveled to. This radio station's slogan is "Positive & Encouraging." There is a reason that so many listeners give their hard earned money to efforts such as this radio station – because this station lives up to this slogan and encourages other to do so as well! I believe that this radio station is having a large, positive impact in the lives of others. Its message is always about finding hope, helping others, leadership, positive advice for dealing with relationships (workplace, home, friends, raising children), etc. Such guidance can only be helpful in a world that struggles with depression, divorce, abuse, lack of leadership, petty strife, stereotyping, prejudice, and extreme physical need (including hunger, homelessness, and inability to pay for necessities). All of these latter things mentioned, we can recall K LOVE encouraging its listeners to combat at some point in time. Wow!

We cannot think of a more efficient way of getting such positive messages out to the masses other than radio.

Concerning to us among the proposals is requiring radio stations to take advice from community advisory boards. We are concerned that such people could stop the good efforts of radio stations such as K LOVE just because they do not agree. K LOVE is of course a Christian radio message which is evident throughout its broadcast; it is reasonable to assume that someone of a different religion would have a bias in its decision making. On that note, it could occur vice versa! A Christian or any other person could have a bias in its decisions regarding a station that promotes a different religion, political idea, values, etc. Since radio is very much an unforced event (ie a person chooses the station he/she listens to and at any time can change the station or even turn the radio off) it seems as if this measure has the potential to censor messages and in this specific case, do harm.

Also concerning are some of the implications of other proposals that are likely to cause a large cost increase to radio stations. Radio stations such as K LOVE are commercial free and obtain all of their funding from listener support. Each year this station struggles to acquire enough pledged support to keep up operations. We cannot imagine what would happen if they had to increase staff, change facilities, etc.

In summary, we would be disappointed in the FCC if it approved these proposals. We ask the commission to consider the implications on society if unrestricted positive messages are forced off the airways.

Sincerely,

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